

IN THE CLAIMS:

1 1. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method for providing request compatibility in a multi-
2 cast system, said method comprising:

3 receiving, by a layer 2 switch coupled between a group of receivers and a router,
4 requests for traffic from said group of receivers;

5 determining, by said switch, whether said traffic requests contain incompatible
6 request types;

7 if incompatible request types exist, then separating said traffic requests into at
8 least two groups based on type; and

9 | sending requests of different types to said router from ~~distinct-different~~ addresses
10 | of the layer 2 switch, to present an appearance to said router that the requests of different
11 | types are from different hosts.

1 2. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 1, wherein said incompatible request types include
2 a single-source request and an any-source request.

1 3. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 2, wherein said single-source request comprises an
2 IGMP v3 request.

1 | 4. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method of claim 2, wherein said ~~older~~-any-source
2 request comprises an IGMP v2 request.

1 5. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 1, wherein said incompatible request types include
2 an include request and an exclude request.

1 6. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method of claim 1, wherein said act of sending re-
2 | quests of different types to said router from ~~distinct~~different addresses further comprises:

3 | creating a first host identity located at a first MAC address; and

4 | creating a second host identity located at a second MAC address.

1 7. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method of claim 6, further comprising sending re-
2 | quests of a first type from said first host identity located at said-a first MAC address, and
3 | sending requests of a second type from said second identity located at said second MAC
4 | address.

1 8. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) An apparatus for providing request compatibility in a
2 | multicast system, said apparatus comprising:

3 | a layer 2 switch coupled between a group of receivers and a router;

4 | said layer 2 switch configured to:

5 | receive requests for traffic from said group of receivers;

6 | determine whether said traffic requests contain incompatible request types;

7 | separate said traffic requests into at least two groups based on type if in-
8 | compatible request types exist; and

9 | send said requests of different types to said router from ~~distinct~~different
10 | addresses of the layer 2 switch, to present an appearance to said router that the re-
11 | quests of different types are from different hosts.

1 9. (ORIGINAL) The apparatus of claim 8, wherein said incompatible request types in-
2 | clude a single-source request and an any-source request.

1 10. (ORIGINAL) The apparatus of claim 9, wherein said single-source request comprises
2 an IGMP v3 request.

1 11. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The apparatus of claim 9, wherein said ~~older~~-any-
2 source request comprises an IGMP v2 request.

1 12. (ORIGINAL) The apparatus of claim 8, wherein said incompatible request types in-
2 clude an include request and an exclude request.

1 13. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The apparatus of claim 8, further configured to create a
2 first host identity located at a first MAC address; and create a second host identity located
3 at a second MAC address.

1 14. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The apparatus of claim 13, further configured send re-
2 quests of a first type from said first host identity located at said ~~a~~-first MAC address, and
3 send requests of a second type from said second identity located at said second MAC ad-
4 dress.

1 15. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) An apparatus for providing request compatibility in a
2 multicast system, said apparatus ~~method~~ comprising:
3 means for receiving, ~~by~~ at a layer 2 switch coupled between a group of receivers
4 and a router, requests for traffic from said group of receivers;
5 means for determining, ~~by~~ at said switch, whether said traffic requests contain in-
6 compatible request types;
7 means for separating said traffic requests into at least two groups based on type if
8 incompatible request types exist; and

9 means for sending requests of different types to said router from ~~distinct-different~~
10 addresses of the layer 2 switch, to present an appearance to said router that the requests of
11 different types are from different hosts.

1 16. (ORIGINAL) The apparatus of claim 15, wherein said incompatible request types in-
2 clude a single-source request and an any-source request.

1 17. (ORIGINAL) The apparatus of claim 16, wherein said single-source request com-
2 prises an IGMP v3 request.

1 18. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The apparatus of claim 16, wherein said ~~older-any-~~
2 source request comprises an IGMP v2 request.

1 19. (ORIGINAL) The apparatus of claim 15, wherein said incompatible request types in-
2 clude an include request and an exclude request.

1 20. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The apparatus of claim 15, further comprising means
2 for creating a first host identity located at a first MAC address; and means for creating a
3 second host identity located at a second MAC address.

1 21. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The apparatus of claim 20, further comprising means
2 for sending requests of a first type from said first host identity located at said ~~a~~-first MAC
3 address, and means for sending requests of a second type from said second identity lo-
4 cated at said second MAC address.

1 22. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A program storage device readable by a machine, tan-
2 gibly embodying a program of instructions executable by the machine to perform a
3 method for providing request compatibility in a multicast system, said method compris-
4 ing:

5 receiving, by a layer 2 switch coupled between a group of receivers and a router,
6 requests for traffic from said group of receivers;

7 determining, by said switch, whether said traffic requests contain incompatible
8 request types;

9 if incompatible request types exist, then separating said traffic requests into at
10 least two groups based on type; and

11 | sending requests of different types to said router from ~~distinct~~ different addresses
12 of the layer 2 switch, to present an appearance to said router that the requests of different
13 types are from different hosts.

1 23. (ORIGINAL) The device of claim 22, wherein said incompatible request types in-
2 clude a single-source request and an any-source request.

1 24. (ORIGINAL) The device of claim 23, wherein said single-source request comprises
2 an IGMP v3 request.

1 | 25. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The device of claim 23, wherein said ~~older~~ any-source
2 request comprises an IGMP v2 request.

1 26. (ORIGINAL) The device of claim 22, wherein said incompatible request types in-
2 clude an include request and an exclude request.

1 27. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The device of claim 22, wherein said act of sending
2 | requests of different types to said router from ~~distinct~~different addresses further com-
3 | prises:

4 | creating a first host identity located at a first MAC address; and

5 | creating a second host identity located at a second MAC address.

1 28. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The device of claim 27, said method further comprising
2 | sending requests of a first type from said first host identity located at said ~~a~~ first MAC
3 | address, and sending requests of a second type from said second identity located at said
4 | second MAC address.